CAPTAIN MARVEL #30

"TIME FLIES CONCLUSION: JONESING"

GOLDEN ORANGE COMICS. LOS ANGELES.

I'VE GOT TOO MUCH BACKSTOCK SITTING AROUND. I GOTTA FIND SOME WAY TO MOVE IT OUT... BECAUSE OTHERWISE, WHEN IT COMES TO FUTURE ORDERS, THERE'S GONNA HAVE TO BE SOME PRETTY DRASTIC *SLASHING* AROUND HERE.

MARLO! AL SAID YOU WERE BACK HERE.

JMS! SHOULD'VE KNOWN. IT'S NEW COMICS DAY, SO *NATURALLY* YOU'RE HERE.

LOOK, AL SUGGESTED I *CHAT* WITH YOU. HE SAID YOU'RE ACTING STRANGE, EVEN DEPRESSED. THAT YOU JUST SIT IN THE BATHROOM ALL DAY AND SAY ODD THINGS.

YOU WOULDN'T *UNDERSTAND.* JOE.

TRY ME. OH, HERE, LET ME *GET* THOSE FOR YOU.

OKAY. I'LL GRAB THE DOORSTOP.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW THE PROBLEM, JOE, IT'S THIS: CAPTAIN MARVEL'S GONE DOWN THE *TOILET.*

REALLY? I MEAN, I KNOW SALES HAVEN'T BEEN *SPECTACULAR,* BUT MAYBE THAT'LL *CHANGE.*

MAYBE SOME GUEST STARS, OR A FOUR-PART STORYLINE WITH A SHOCK ENDING...

SEE, JOE, I *TOLD* YOU YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

I DON'T *UNDERSTAND.*

ONE MOMENT I'M IN THE YEAR 2099, WITH GENIS AND THAT ERA'S SPIDER-MAN... THEN I'M HAULED INTO THE AREA CALLED *"INNERSPACE..."*

AND SUDDENLY I'M HERE... WHEREVER *"HERE"* IS.

"HERE," STARFOX, IS A VARIANT FUTURE. YOU'RE IN THE STRONGHOLD OF AN INDIVIDUAL CALLED THE MAESTRO.

HE HAS SOMETHING I REQUIRE, AND WHICH YOU MUST GET FOR ME... IF YOUR LIFE REMAINS *IMPORTANT* TO YOU.

NOT IF YOU'RE DEAD BEFORE YOU HAVE THE CHANCE.

"SOUVENIR." WHO IS THIS *"MAESTRO,"* ANYWAY?

I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, THANATOS... FOR PUTTING ME THROUGH THIS. JAMMING THE SPEAR OF DESTINY THROUGH MY THROAT... BLACK-MAILING ME... KILLING AN INNOCENT WOMAN.

OH, YES. I *WILL* KILL YOU FOR THIS.

THE OBJECT YOU SEEK IS THE AMULET AND CLOAK OF DOCTOR STRANGE. THE MAESTRO HAS IT AS A *SOUVENIR.* IT'S SOMEWHERE WITHIN. FIND IT... OR LOSE YOUR CHANCE FOR *VENGEANCE.*

THE FUTURE, *EVIL* INCARNATION OF THE HULK.

YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS!

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED HE MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT MY STEALING HIS PROPERTY?

OHHH... I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT...

"I THINK HE'LL BE FAIRLY WELL OCCUPIED *ELSEWHERE.*

"AND NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, STARFOX... I HAVE PREPARATIONS TO MAKE. WHY, THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO THAT I'M POSITIVELY *BESIDE* MYSELF."

SOOOOO THE THREE OF US... YOU, ME, AND OLD ME THERE... WE'RE KIND OF LIKE ONE OF THOSE --

-- RAMA TUT, KANG AND IMMORTUS DEALS?

UH HUH.

PRETTY MUCH IT, YEAH.

OKAY, GOT'CHA.

Named my great granddaughter after Janis Joplin. Did I **mention** that?

ABOUT *THREE TIMES* SINCE I GOT HERE, YEAH.

Great name, Janis.

TIME FLIES CONCLUSION: JONESING

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HEY. OLD RICK. HOW'D YOU GET THOR'S *HAMMER* IN HERE, SINCE IT'S TOO HEAVY TO MOVE? *MACHINERY?*

Name. Called a name. Can't remember. On... tip of my tongue...

JANIS. YOUR GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER. THE NAME IS JANIS FOR JANIS JOPLIN. AGAIN.

Oh. Right. I guess.

OKAY, ENOUGH'S ENOUGH. YOU'RE CALLING YOURSELF "THANATOS," ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY YOU'RE SOME WEIRD *ALTERNATE* VERSION OF ME.

STRANGE. FROM WHERE I SIT, *YOU'RE* SOME WEIRD ALTERNATE VERSION OF *ME.*

FUNNY HOW THAT WORKS.

"*FUNNY*" HA HA OR "*FUNNY*" STRANGE?

KNOCK IT OFF!

YOU KNOCK IT OFF!

GOT ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY?

NO? GOOD.

OKAY, LOOK... HERE'S THE *DEAL*...

REMEMBER THE KREE/SKRULL WAR? THE INTELLIGENCE SUPREME UNLEASHED A PSYCHIC POWER WHICH SUPPOSEDLY ALL HUMANS HAVE WITHIN THEM...

...THAT THING WHICH CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE DESTINY FORCE.

I USED IT TO CREATE A BUNCH OF GOLDEN AGE SUPER HEROES TO FIGHT A DELAYING ACTION. PRETTY TAME STUFF. BUT YOU GOTTA *WALK* BEFORE YOU CAN RUN.

THE THING WAS... IN YOUR REALITY... YOU WOUND UP RE-MERGING WITH MAR-VELL SHORTLY THEREAFTER. IN *MINE*... THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN. AND I WOUND UP ELECTING TO STAY WITH THE INTELLIGENCE SUPREME, WHO WANTED TO TEACH ME TO HARNESS THE DESTINY FORCE.

STEVE THREW A FIT, BUT EVEN HE COULDN'T TALK ME OUT OF IT. HE SAID THE SUPREMOR WANTED TO MANIPULATE THE POWER FOR HIS *OWN ENDS.*

WHICH, OF COURSE, WAS TRUE.

YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THE SUPREMOR'S EXPRESSION RIGHT BEFORE I KILLED HIM. PRICELESS, I'M TELLIN' YA.

Your basic absolute power corrupting absolutely thing...

YEAH, I *GOT* THAT.

Just thought I'd mention. Case ya missed it.

NO, I'M ON THE SAME PAGE, THANKS.

What was that name again...?

JANIS, OKAY? JANIS. *GOD*, YOU'RE EMBARRASSING.

SEE, THE THING WAS... I'M REALLY THE DEFINITIVE MODEL OF WHAT WE SHOULD BE. I MEAN, LOOK AT YOU, *RICK*... IN YOUR WORLD, YOU'RE MERGED WITH CAPTAIN MARVEL AND YOUR MARRIAGE IS TOUCH AND GO.

AND OLD RICK, GEEZ, *HE'S* AS MUCH OF A RELIC AS HIS *TOYS*.

THERE'S REALLY NO NEED FOR ANY *OTHER* VERSIONS OF US, YOU KNOW?

"SO I PUT TOGETHER A PLAN. TOOK ME ***AGES*** OF TRIAL AND ERROR TO DO IT. DESTROYED SEVERAL WORLDS AND AT LEAST ONE UNIVERSE, CAUSED A FEW CRISES... BUT I'VE FINALLY GOT IT ***DOWN*** THIS TIME.

"I NEEDED TO COMBINE ELEMENTS OF SCIENCE, SORCERY AND MYTHOLOGY... WHICH REALLY ***ARE*** THE SAME THING, YOU KNOW, EXCEPT WITH DIFFERENT RULES.

"MY LAST OUTING GOT ME DISCORPORATED, SO OBVIOUSLY I DIDN'T WANT A REPEAT OF ***THAT*** DISASTER. SO THIS TIME I OBTAINED SOME CATSPAWS TO DO THE WORK FOR ME. SAFER THAT WAY.

"BEFORE TOO LONG, STARFOX WILL HAVE ACQUIRED THE FINAL ITEM I NEED. THEN I'LL BRING HIM HERE AND USING THE COMBINED POWERS OF THESE INVENTIONS AND TALISMANS... PLUS THE LIFE FORCE-MERGED-WITH-CHRONOPARTICLES THAT I BESTOWED UPON STARFOX...

TAKE ME TO THE CAPE AND AMULET OF DOCTOR STRANGE, OR I'LL SNAP YOUR ***NECK.***

"...I WILL BECOME THE TEMPLATE FOR WHAT RICK JONES IS, AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN, AND WILL BE, EVERYWHERE THROUGHOUT THE MULTIVERSE. LIKE THE BUDDHIST SAID TO THE HOT DOG VENDOR, I WILL BE MADE ONE WITH EVERYTHING."

I WILL BE... THE ***ULTIMATE*** RICK JONES!

WELL? WHAT DO YOU ***THINK?***

Can I have some ice cream?

WHO THE FLARK IS THE MAESTRO FIGHTING?

I DON'T KNOW! SOME SORT OF FREAKS! BUT IT'S NOTHING THE *MAESTRO* CAN'T HANDLE!

WE'LL JUST BE PROVIDING MOP-UP FOR --

WHAT THE--?!

WHERE DID THIS THING COME FROM?

CAN'T MOVE--!

THAT'S THE IDEA.

I *REMEMBER* YOU NOW! CAPTAIN MAR-VELL, ISN'T IT? YOU LOOK DIFFERENT, BUT I RECOGNIZE SOME OF THE ACCOUTREMENTS. OBVIOUSLY YOU HAVEN'T DIED OF CANCER YET.

IS THIS SOME STUNT OF THE REBELS? DID THEY SUMMON YOU FROM THE PAST SOMEHOW?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT REBELS YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT OR WHO YOU ARE...

...BUT I CAN CERTAINLY SPOT A *BAD GUY* EASILY ENOUGH.

AH, I'D FORGOTTEN HOW QUAINT IS YOUR OLD WORLD OF GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS.

WHAT I *HAVEN'T* FORGOTTEN, HOWEVER...

...IS *WHAT HAPPENS* WHEN YOUR *WRIST BANDS* ARE SLAMMED TOGETHER!

WHAT THE HELL? WHERE'S JONES?

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SWITCH MOLECULES WITH THAT IDIOT, RICK JONES!

SORRY I COULDN'T ACCOMMODATE YOU. WAIT... ACTUALLY, I'M *NOT* SORRY.

AND SINCE THIS *GRAND THRONE ROOM* OF YOURS HAS CLEARED OUT OF INNOCENT BYSTANDERS...

...I CAN ACTUALLY *CUT LOOSE!*

I WAS BEING CAREFUL EARLIER, YOU SEE. YET ANOTHER ONE OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS. AND HERE'S ONE *MORE:*

THE GOOD GUYS ALWAYS WIN!

AND IT'S *NOT* MAR-VELL! IT'S JUST "CAPTAIN MARVEL," YOU MORON!

THOOOM!

REMIND ME NOT TO PISS YOU *OFF.*

WHAT WAS HE TRYING TO DO, BANGING THOSE WRISTS BANDS OF YOURS TOGETHER?

SOMETHING THAT ACTUALLY SHOULD HAVE WORKED, EVEN THOUGH HE CONFUSED ME WITH MY FATHER. AND I'M NOT SURE WHY IT DIDN'T. NOT THAT I'M KNOCKING IT...

UH-OH.

AW, *SHOCK.*

OH, *GOOD GUY!* I'M GOING TO SMASH IN THE *HEADS* OF SOME OF YOUR PRECIOUS INNOCENT BYSTANDERS!

I'M ALLOWED TO *DO* THAT, YOU SEE, WHAT WITH BEING THE *BAD GUY.*

ARRRHHH--!

ZWAAM

SCARPER, KIDS! LOOKS LIKE THE MAESTRO HAS TO DEAL WITH A NEW STUDLY IN TOWN.

DAKORD! GET 'EM OUTTA HERE!

I SCAN *THAT*, JANIS.

FWIZZ

NOW WHAT? HOW LONG DO YOU THINK *THIS* WILL SLOW ME?

JUST *LONG* ENOUGH!

THIS IS IT. I'D RECOGNIZE IT ANYWHERE. THIS IS DOCTOR STRANGE'S MYSTICAL TALISMAN, ALL RIGHT.

THE AMULET, AND THIS, THE CLOAK. THANK YOU FOR YOUR *AID*, MINISTER.

NO NEED TO SAY ANYTHING. I KNOW YOU WERE ONLY TOO *EAGER* TO HELP.

THE QUESTION BECOMES: NOW WHAT? THANATOS CLAIMED HE WOULD KNOW WHEN I HAD ACHIEVED MY GOAL... BUT WAS HE SIMPLY *BOASTING*, OR --

THE TIME PLATFORM OF DOCTOR DOOM! WELL! IT APPEARS THAT THANATOS INDEED *KNOWS* WHAT HE'S ABOUT.

Name's on the tip of my tongue...

YOU KNOW, I MAY JUST GO AHEAD AND SHOOT THE OLD ONE JUST TO PUT HIM OUT OF OUR MISERY.

AH! AND JUMPING FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST TO THE NOW COMES OUR CATSPAW...

WELL DONE, STARFOX.

I DON'T NEED YOUR PRAISE, THANATOS...

I NEED YOUR *HEAD* ON A *STICK!*

HA! *GET* HIM, RICK! HIT HIM *HIGH* WHILE I HIT H --

UHHHH! *NOOO!* SO... SO WEAK! BLAST IT, *NO! NOT NOW!*

THAT'S *FAR ENOUGH*, RICK! I'VE BEEN DOING THIS LONG ENOUGH THAT I DON'T *NEED* TO SEE TO BE *DEADLY ACCURATE!*

THAT WAS A *FOOLISH MOVE*, STARFOX! YOU'VE BEEN A HANDY TOOL... BUT YOU'RE NOT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR THE FINAL PROCEDURES! YOU WERE MY BACK-UP IN CASE ONE OF THE PIECES I SOUGHT WAS UNATTAINABLE.

BUT SINCE THAT HASN'T HAPPENED, AND YOUR WEAKNESS IS BECOMING INCONVENIENT, YOU'RE RAPIDLY OUTLIVING YOUR USEFULNESS.

SO LET'S NOT PRESS OUR *LUCK*, SHALL WE?

IT ALL HINGES ON *ME*, YOU KNOW! THAT IS TO SAY... ON *US!*

IF I HADN'T WANDERED OUT ONTO THAT TESTING RANGE, THEN NO HULK!

LATER I SUMMONED HEROES TO BATTLE THE HULK, AND THEY FORMED THE AVENGERS! SO NO *HULK*, NO AVENGERS! NO *AVENGERS...*

NO WORLD!

INSTEAD WHAT'S LEFT IN ALL THE MULTIVERSE WILL BE SHAPED IN MY IMAGE! MINE... AND THE POWER OF THE DESTINY FORCE, WIELDED AS NONE EVER *HAVE!* AS NONE EVER *COULD!*

YEARS I SPENT... YEARS!... BEING A *SIDEKICK!* A POWERLESS *HANGER-ON!* NO MORE! THAT ENDS HERE, NOW AND THEN, FOR ALL TIME AND ALL TIMES!

WHO'S YOUR DADDY? C'MON! *WHO'S YOUR DADDY?!*

CAPTAIN MARVEL!

I'LL ANNIHILATE YOU FOR THIS! YOU AND... AND WHOEVER THAT OTHER FOOL IS!

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT COSTUME, ANYWAY? A DAY OF THE DEAD FESTIVAL?

WELL... UHM... *YES*, ACTUALLY.

LOOK AT THIS! I'LL BE PICKING THIS GARBAGE OUT OF MY BEARD FOR ***WEEKS!*** I'VE CHANGED MY MIND, WALL-CRAWLER. YOU'RE NOW FIRST ON MY HIT PARADE.

SORRY, MAESTRO. TO DO THAT, YOU'LL HAVE TO COME THROUGH ME!

KRAKRHHH

I'M... NOT FROM *AROUND* HERE, ACTUALLY.

NOW WHAT -- YOU?!

MARV! HOW--?

If I could just... remember that name...

GENIS! LOOK OUT! BEHIND Y--

NOOOOOOO!

YES! IT'S WORKING! *IT'S WORKING!* ALL THE POWERS THAT EXIST, REAL AND UNREAL. NATURAL AND SUPERNATURAL, MERGING AROUND ME! I CAN FEEL IT! MY SPIRIT, MY ESSENCE, THE GREATNESS THAT IS ME, BECOMING THE MODEL FOR ALL THE MULTIVERSE!

IN EVERY ASPECT, IN EVERY VARIANT, I AM THE *ULTIMATE* OF ULTIMATES!

OH MY GOD! IT'S FULL OF... *ME!*

THE... THE HAMMER...? WHAT--?

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THOR'S HAMMER?!

KRAAASH

Heh. Finally remembered the name. Mjolnir's secret name... that made it come when Thor **called**...

He whispered it to me... right before he died.

I was deemed **worthy**, y'see... for stuff that **you** ain't done **yet**, Rick-O... and you, helmet head... you ain't **never** gonna do...

PUT IT... DOWN...! Y'HEAR? DROP... THE HAMMER... OLD MAN! NOW!

Aw, blow it out our harmonica, y' meatball.

Hey boys! you **heard** him! Let's put the **hammer down!** I need a power boost! So **bang those bands--!**

...and we'll make this bozo hit the bricks!

SHWAM

NO! NOOOO! YOU -- YOU--!

YOU GUYS REALLY SUUUUCCC

TAKE A MESSAGE TO YOUR FELLOW REBELS IN HELL... THAT THE MAESTRO IS SENDING *ALL* OF THEM TH --

HUH?

HUH?

HUH?

HOW... HOW DID... WHY...?

I...I DON'T *UNDERSTAND.* I'M... WHOLE AGAIN! I'M BACK IN MY OWN TIME! IN THE HOTEL ROOM WHERE THANATOS ASSAULTED ME! BUT... THIS IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE! I HAVE A MILLION QUESTIONS -- !

MMMMM... STAAAARFOX...

EVERY SINGLE *ONE* OF WHICH CAN *WAIT.*

IS... IS HE...?

ZZZ

GUESS HE OVEREXERTED HIMSELF.

KNOWING *HIS* MEMORY, HE'LL PROBABLY WAKE UP WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TROPHY ROOM.

BUT WHERE'S STARFOX? AND--?

BACK IN HIS OWN TIME. SPIDER-MAN, TOO. THE ENERGIES UNLEASHED BY THE DEMISE OF THANATOS CUT ACROSS TIME AND REALITY AND SENT ALL THE PLAYERS IN THIS LITTLE INSANITY BACK WHERE THEY CAME FROM.

HOW DO YOU *KNOW?*

THAT'S AN ***ADVANTAGE*** TO BEING COSMICALLY AWARE, RICK. YOU GET TO ***KNOW*** THESE THINGS. UNFORTUNATELY, ONE OF THOSE RETURNEES WAS YOU... TO THE MICROVERSE. THE ENERGIES REMERGED US.

YEAH, THAT FIGURES. AND HOW WILL WE GET BACK?

DOOM'S TIME MACHINE. IT MAY BE SUPERSCIENCE ON EARTH, BUT THE MECHANISM SEEMS PRETTY SIMPLE TO ME.

AREN'T *WE* MR. FABOO? SAY... IZZAT WHAT I *THINK* IT IS--?

YUP. THE TRANSFORMED REMAINS OF THANATOS.

I THINK THE OLD ME STILL HAD A DASH OF THE DESTINY FORCE IN HIM, BENDING NOT ONLY TIME, BUT REALITY. WHEN HE SAID "HIT THE BRICKS"...

...HE WASN'T KIDDING AROUND.

GOLDEN GRAHAM COMICS

NOW, MARLO, IT CAN'T BE THAT BAD...

IT SHOULDN'T BE, JOE... BUT IT *IS!*

I'M STARTING TO THINK, MAYBE IT'S NOT RICK, BUT ME! MAYBE I'M A JINX!

HEY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONVINCE *ME.* YOU GOT ME KILLED. *TWICE.*

MARLO, THAT'S RIDICULOUS. YOU'RE *NOT* A JINX.

HOW DO WE *KNOW,* HUH? FOR A MICROSECOND, RICK AND I WERE BACK TOGETHER, AND THEN BAM, I BOTCHED IT AND SENT HIM...

SENT HIM WHERE?

NEVER MIND! IT'S TOO RIDICULOUS! MY WHOLE *LIFE* IS TOO RIDICULOUS! GOD, I WISH I... I WISH I WAS *DEAD!*

OH, MARLO, YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THINGS LIKE TH --

MARLO?

MARLO?

THUUUD

OHHHHH CRAP...